198. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they have at any time received any complaint about the importation into Vellarappilli of illicit tobacco by the contractor of the village;

(b) if so, what steps have they taken to put a stop to this discreditable practice?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) Two petitions were received.

(b) One of the petitions is under enquiry. The enquiry into the other one did not reveal any malpractice.

199. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any increase has been sanctioned last year in the quantity of salt imported into Vellarappilli?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—No.

200. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—If the answer to the previous question 199 is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the increase in the population, they intend to sanction a similar increase in the quantity of tobacco imports, too, into Vellarappilli?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—No reply is required in view of the answer to the question referred to.

201. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state (a) whether along with other causes, the annual sojourn in Vellarappilli of His Highness the Maharaja and Party also, has increased the demand for tobacco in the village;

(b) if so, what steps have the Government taken to meet this increased demand?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) Government have no evidence that it has increased.

(b) No reply is necessary in view of the answer to (a).

202. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the number of people resorting to the river sides in Vellarappilli during the hot season has been increasing in recent years?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The Government have no information on the point.

203. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—If the answer to the previous question (202) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state (a) whether such increase of people has increased the demand for tobacco in Vellarappilli;

(b) and if so, what steps have the Government taken to meet this increased demand?

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